

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle having a longitudinal axis and configured for containing the substance to be applied, and an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed oval curve, each tooth having a longitudinal axis, the gaps between the teeth being such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve, and wherein the longitudinal axis of the teeth are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the receptacle.

Claim 2 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows and at least one intermediate row situated between said outer rows, said outer rows meeting each other around said at least one intermediate row.

Claim 3 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has teeth of different heights.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is removable, being configured for fixing on the receptacle in a first position and in a second position different from the first, the receptacle and the applicator portion being configured such that in the first position said at least one delivery orifice does not communicate with the substance contained in the receptacle, and in the second position said at least one delivery orifice communicates with the substance contained in the receptacle.

Claim 5 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is configured to be fixed on the receptacle in two different positions only, with changeover from one position to the other being performed by removing the applicator portion, turning it through 180° about an axis of the receptacle, and then putting it back into place.

Claim 6 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows of teeth and an intermediate row situated between the two outer rows, with all of the teeth in the intermediate row being shorter than those of the outer rows.

Claim 7 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has outer and intermediate rows of teeth, said rows superposing one another when the applicator portion is viewed in a direction recommended for moving the applicator portion through the hair.

Claim 8 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the teeth are of oblong cross-section.

Claim 9 (original) A device according to claim 1, having two outer rows of teeth and at least one intermediate row of teeth, the intermediate row having teeth whose free ends are set back from the free ends of the teeth in the outer rows by a distance lying in the range 4 mm to 8 mm, when the applicator portion is observed in a direction perpendicular to the axes of the teeth.

Claim 10 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has a plurality of substance delivery orifices.

Claim 11 (original) A device according to claim 10, wherein said orifices are of circular section.

Claim 12 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the orifices open out between the rows of teeth.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has an internal sealing lip configured for bearing against a skirt of the receptacle when the applicator portion is fixed thereon, said internal lip defining an inside space that is permanently in communication with the outside via said at least one substance delivery orifice.

Claim 14 (original) A device according to claim 13, wherein said internal lip is of oblong cross-section.

Claim 15 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle has at least one substance delivery duct in communication with said at least one delivery orifice.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein said delivery duct has an axial end which is closed and a side which is open, and wherein the applicator portion comprises a shutter suitable for shutting said side opening when the applicator portion is in a predetermined position relative to the receptacle.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A device according to claim 16, wherein said shutter comprises a cylindrical wall having a circularly arcuate cross-section.

Claim 18 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is configured for fixing on the receptacle by snap-fastening.

Claim 19 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion comprises a part made separately from the container and fixed thereon.

Claim 21 (original) A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion has a sealing skirt defining a housing with at least one substance delivery duct opening out into the bottom thereof.

Claim 22 (original) A device according to claim 21, wherein said housing has a central region and side regions, the central region being deeper than the side regions, and wherein the applicator portion has a single duct opening out into the bottom of said central region.

Claim 23 (previously presented) A device according to claim 20, wherein the adapter portion has a covering skirt configured for extending around a neck of the container, and a receiver skirt for receiving the applicator portion.

Claim 24 (original) A device according to claim 23, wherein the receiver skirt of the applicator portion has at least one catch in relief for engaging the applicator portion.

Claim 25 (previously presented) A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion has two main faces and comprises a recess formed in each of said

faces, and wherein the applicator portion has an index, said index being suitable for engaging in one or other of the said recesses to inform the user about the position of the applicator portion relative to the receptacle.

Claim 26 (original) A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion has at least one indication molded therein for enabling the user to identify the position of the applicator portion relative to the receptacle.

Claim 27 (previously presented) A device according to claim 19, wherein the applicator portion has an assembly skirt and wherein the adapter portion is configured to enable the user to deform the assembly skirt by pressing in opposite directions on bearing surfaces so as to modify the engagement between the receptacle and the applicator portion, for the purpose of removing it.

Claim 28 (previously presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein the assembly skirt has large faces with catches in relief suitable for engaging corresponding catches in relief formed on the adapter portion, and wherein the adapter portion has flats set back from the assembly skirt enabling the user to exert pressure on the bearing surfaces of the assembly skirt so as to enable the user to deform the spacing between the large faces of the assembly skirt to disengage the catches in relief of the assembly skirt from the adapter portion.

Claim 29 (original) A device according to claim 27, wherein the assembly

skirt of the applicator portion has ribs on its short sides to constitute the bearing surfaces for the user.

Claim 30 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle is made integrally with the adapter portion.

Claim 31 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle has a plurality of substance delivery ducts and the applicator portion has a plurality of shutters suitable for engaging in said ducts to shut them when the applicator portion is in a first position, and suitable for taking up positions outside said ducts when said applicator portion is in a second position.

Claim 32 (original) A device according to claim 31, wherein said ducts are disposed asymmetrically about a midplane of the receptacle.

Claim 33 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle comprises a removable cap at an end opposite from the applicator portion.

Claim 34 (previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein said cap is configured to allow the receptacle to stand on a plane surface with the applicator portion on top.

Claim 35 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle does not have a cap at its end opposite from the applicator portion.

Claim 36 (previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle comprises a compressible wall.

Claim 37 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle is made of polyethylene.

Claim 38 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is made of polypropylene.

Claim 39 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has at least one index enabling its position relative to the receptacle to be identified.

Claim 40 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows of teeth, these rows comprising rectilinear portions which meet each other via series of teeth whose bottom regions extending from their base portions overlap when the applicator portion is observed along a direction parallel to said rectilinear portions.

Claim 41 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said substance is

a hair dye.

Claim 42 (original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said substance is retained within said curve by capillarity.

Claim 43 (previously presented) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the applicator portion is removable, being configured for fixing on the receptacle in a first position and in a second position different from the first, the receptacle and the applicator portion being configured such that in the first position said at least one delivery orifice does not communicate with the substance contained in the receptacle, and in the second position said at least one delivery orifice communicates with the substance contained in the receptacle.

Claim 44 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has

teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein said receptacle has a skirt and the applicator portion has an internal sealing lip configured for bearing against said skirt of the receptacle when the applicator portion is fixed thereon, said internal lip defining an inside space that is permanently in communication with the outside via said at least one substance delivery orifice and that is capable of being isolated from an inside of the receptacle.

Claim 45 (previously presented) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle has at least one substance delivery duct in communication with said at least one delivery orifice, said delivery duct having an axial end which is closed and a side which is open, and wherein the applicator portion comprises a shutter suitable for shutting said side opening when the applicator portion is in a predetermined position relative to the receptacle.

Claim 46 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery

orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle, the applicator portion being removable mounted on the adapter portion, said adapter portion having a sealing skirt defining a housing with at least one substance delivery duct opening out into the bottom thereof.

Claim 47 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle, the applicator portion being removably mounted on the adapter portion, said adapter portion comprising a part made separately from the container and fixed thereon, and wherein the adapter portion has a covering skirt configured for extending around a neck of the container, and a receiver skirt for receiving the applicator portion.

Claim 48 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery

orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle, the applicator portion being removably mounted on the adapter portion,

wherein the adapter portion has two main faces and comprises a recess formed in each of said faces, and wherein the applicator portion has an index, said index being suitable for engaging in one or other of the said recesses to inform the user about the position of the applicator portion relative to the receptacle.

Claim 49 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle, the applicator portion being removably mounted on the adapter portion,

wherein the adapter portion has at least one indication molded therein for enabling the user to identify the position of the applicator portion relative to the receptacle.

Claim 50 (currently amended) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and

an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle, the applicator portion being removably mounted on the adapter portion, wherein the applicator portion has an assembly skirt and wherein the adapter portion is configured to enable the user to deform the assembly skirt by pressing in opposite directions on bearing surfaces so as to modify the engagement between the receptacle and the applicator portion, for the purpose of removing it.

Claim 51 (previously presented) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and
an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, wherein the receptacle has a plurality of substance delivery ducts and the applicator portion has a plurality of shutters suitable for engaging in said ducts to shut them when the applicator portion is in a first position, and suitable for taking up positions outside said ducts when said applicator portion is in a second position.

Claim 52 (previously presented) A device according to claim 43, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the

teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 53 (previously presented) A device according to claim 44, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 54 (previously presented) A device according to claim 45, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 55 (previously presented) A device according to claim 46, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 56 (previously presented) A device according to claim 47, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 57 (previously presented) A device according to claim 48, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 58 (previously presented) A device according to claim 49, wherein the

gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 59 (previously presented) A device according to claim 50 wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 60 (previously presented) A device according to claim 51, wherein the gaps between the teeth are chosen such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.

Claim 61 (new) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

- a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied,
- and
- an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered,

wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, the gaps between the teeth being such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve and wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows and at least one intermediate row situated between said outer rows, said outer rows meeting each other around said at least one intermediate row.

Claim 62 (new) A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising:

a receptacle configured for containing the substance to be applied, and an applicator portion fixed on said receptacle and having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, the gaps between the teeth being such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve, and wherein said closed curve has two longitudinal ends, the closed curve having a single tooth at each of said longitudinal ends.